

Oregon City Hall, Portland, Ore., Sept. 1912

Polk County Observer

SEMI-WEEKLY

VOL. 24

DALLAS, OREGON, FRIDAY, OCTOBER 4, 1912

NO. 63

SPEED AND SHOWING FROM FIELD AND ORCHARD MARK FIRST ANNUAL POLK FAIR

School Children Have Great Display; Fruit Men and Farmers Have Creditable Exhibits

LIVE STOCK AND POULTRY DEPARTMENTS HAVE FINE ENTRIES

The first annual Polk County Fair is a success. The rains may come, and the winds may blow dirt in our faces, but nothing can now dim the fact that the display of exhibits of Polk county is wonderful and a surprise to everybody. The big National Guard armory building is jammed to the doors with exhibits from the school children from the ladies, from the farmers and the fruit growers. It is the best exhibit Polk county has ever made here or elsewhere and, what is more, it represents, so far as the school children are concerned, every portion of the county. In the general exhibits, however, there are several sections of the county that are not represented, but their failure will be their loss.

The weather yesterday was far from favorable. Ushered in by cloudy skies, a copious rain fell during the morning hours which continued intermittently during the greater portion of the day. Heavy winds swept down from the northwest during the afternoon which made it disagreeable to be out, but the big crowds took it good naturedly and seemed not to mind it.

Auto Parade Prizes.
First prize, fine auto robe, Dr. A. B. Starbuck.
Second prize, pair auto gloves, C. Blyen car.

Hinders Auto Parade.
The rain of the morning and the heavy winds of the afternoon prevented a good showing in the automobile parade and, for a time it was thought that the event would have to be abandoned altogether. Finally, however, the skies cleared somewhat, and the parade took place.

Headed by the six-passenger Auburn machine driven by Dr. A. B. Starbuck, the parade left the public school building and moved northward on Main street, and thence to the armory. What was lacking in numbers was made up in beauty of decoration; some were festooned with roses and other flowers, bunting and flags, while others bore special decorations. A feature of the parade was a decorated automobile by the "Taft First Voters' club," which was covered with Taft lithographs, campaign buttons and other decorations. Owing to the showers the cars were sent over the route faster than the parade and this prevented the crowds that lined the sidewalks from viewing the flower-decked machines as long as they would have liked.

Senator Speaks in Court House.
Owing to the high wind and the general unfavorable weather conditions, outdoor meetings were called off and Senator Chamberlain, who reached the city at noon, spoke to a large audience in the court house, on the political line of the day, from a Democratic standpoint. He paid his respects to the Republicans and to the Bull Moosemen, and his remarks were liberally applauded.

It was necessary, on account of the wind, to omit the scheduled balloon ascension and parachute leap, and the high dive acts by the Arnold Amusement company, but the other events on the free list were pulled off as nearly as possible.

The great display at the Armory by the school children of Polk county, reflects credit upon them. Other displays may have been larger, but it is certain that none of them have been more complete. The showing of vegetables, especially, is remarkable, and is evidence of what may be done with the soil of the county when intelligent and careful cultivation methods are applied. The school display occupies fully two-thirds of the space in the armory, and every foot of it is crowded with exhibits. There is everything there, too, which may be grown in this latitude. There are cunning little tomatoes, round as a dollar and red as a beet; there are other tomatoes, shaped like a pear, and yellow as gold; there are big pumpkins, big squashes, big everything, until one grows tired of exclaiming, "oh, my!" There are also several fine examples of cabinet work executed by the children. Some of it was shown at the state fair, and in each case it carried away a prize of some kind. There is a good display in the domestic science branch, and some fine samples of bread are shown; also cakes and canned goods.

After \$25 Prize.
Guthrie, Bethel and Elkins districts have entered exhibits in the general class, and are close competitors for the big prize of \$25 offered for the best exhibit by a district. The displays are located in booths in the middle section and, in every case, the displays are a credit to the districts; how the judges are going to arrive at a decision, is hard to determine. The exhibits include all departments and consist of vegetables, field products, cabinet work and domestic science displays.

Individual Exhibits.
In the first booth of the middle section as you enter the north door of the armory, is found an individual exhibit by Clifford Martin, of the Balltown district. This exhibit won the first prize at the recent Yamhill county fair, where it was admitted because Balltown is a joint district, in Polk and Yamhill counties, but young Martin is a resident of Polk,

MODERN PLANT NOW READY



A. C. Petersen, Resident Manager of the Dallas Plant of the Armsby Company.



View of the Dallas Plant of The J. K. Armsby Company, Recently Completed in This City, Declared to be One of the Most Modern and Complete Institutions of Its Kind in Existence.

(By Cedarquill)
STANDING on the Southern Pacific right of way, south of the station building, on a tract of land which has been leased for a long term of years, is one of the most important industries that has been established in Dallas for many years. Reference is made to the big plant of the J. K. Armsby company, prune packers, of San Francisco, which is complete and ready for business. The building is an imposing one, two and one-half stories in height and of liberal ground dimensions. It has been built substantially, on concrete foundations, and is declared to be a first-class structure throughout. It is fitted with every convenience known to modern fruit handling methods, in fact is declared to be one of the best equipped and up-to-date plants of the kind in existence.

In spite of the fact that Dallas is commonly known as the "prune capital of Oregon," this city having long been a staple here, very few people are aware of the method used in preparing the fruit for market. All know what a dried prune looks like, and how they are prepared but, as they have always been sold to outside firms which did the packing, local people have had no opportunity to learn further of the fruit, after it leaves the dryer.

Journey Through the Plant.
For the purpose, therefore, of making ourselves familiar with the treatment of this great Polk county product in its preparation for the table, let us take a jaunt through the big Armsby packing plant. We will find Mr. A. C. Petersen, resident manager of the concern a fine fellow to meet and he will take pains to show us through the bright new institution.

Prunes, as they come from the grower in sacks, are received at the East door on the first floor. Here they are weighed and wheeled to the southern end of the building where they are dumped on the floor, each man's stock being kept separate. The next step is the elevator to the grander floor on the third floor. Prunes which have been purchased at other places, and which come to the plant in car loads, are unloaded at the west door where they are also weighed and conveyed direct to the grading elevator. They are thus elevated to the top of the building where they are discharged into the grader. This is an ingenious device consisting of a number of screens or sieves communicating with as many bins. There are eight of these screens containing holes of different sizes, the first two eliminating the leaves and all dirt, while the other six separate the different sized prunes as the fruit is shaken along over their surfaces.

Prune Sizes.
The sizes are known as 40 to 40, 40 to 50, 50 to 60, 60 to 70, 70 to 80, 80 to 90, 90 to 100 and 100 and over. The Italian prunes generally grade from 40 to 50 and 50 to 60, while the petites run in the smaller sizes and grade around 80 to 90 and 90 to 100. In every instance the figures refer to the number of prunes in a pound. From the grader the fruit is deposited in bins, each size having a bin of its own, and here the fruit remains until packed. Processing is never done until they are packed. When the prunes are taken from the grader they are weighed, each size separately and a record kept of the sizes.

From the storing bins the fruit is wheeled to the processor elevator where it is sent to the machine that prepares it for packing, or "processing" in other words. These machines are on the upper floor and consist of two long cylinders mounted on machinery by which they slowly revolve. Inside these processors are wooden coils and a perforated steam pipe through which jets of steam strike the fruit, practically cooking it, and, at the same time, the revolving motion of the cylinders insures that every prune receives its share of the steam. It usually requires from one and one-half to three and one-half minutes for the prunes to pass through the processors, about two and one-half minutes being the average time. At the lower end, where the prunes leave the cylinders, they are washed in a constant stream of boiling water and thence they are carried on a sort of sieve shaker which eliminates all foreign substances that still may cling to them. From the shaker they drop into a hopper and are carried down into the packing hopper on the second floor.

Packing Interesting.
The packing of prunes is an interesting proceeding. In the packing room are a number of girl whose duty it is to place the "facers" in each box. This work is done by hand. In the bottom of a box which



President J. K. Armsby.

The Armsby Company

The J. K. Armsby Company was established in Chicago in 1865, by J. K. Armsby, father of the present president of the corporation. The nature of the business first engaged in was that of importing foreign prunes, raisins, and nuts, for distribution throughout the middle west.

In 1878 Mr. Armsby made his initial trip to the Pacific Coast, and was so impressed by its wonderful possibilities in all lines that an office was established in San Francisco, for the purpose of distributing Pacific Coast products, such as dried fruits, nuts, raisins, canned fruits, and salmon.

Since that time the phenomenal development of the industries above referred to and the enormous volume of business covering the production of these industries, aggregating millions of dollars yearly, transacted by the company, indicates the soundness of Mr. Armsby's judgment 34 years ago.

This company is the largest handler of Pacific Coast products in the world, distributing goods to all parts of the world. The home office of the company is in San Francisco, but it has offices in Chicago, New York, Boston, and Los Angeles, all under the management of men who are officers or who have been for years connected with the company. It has as well, hundreds of brokers, being represented by the best talent in this country and Europe. It operates twelve large dried fruit packing plants in California, and one in Vancouver, Washington. In addition to the new plant in Dallas, and is interested in some of the largest canning plants on the coast, aside from being large distributors of canned salmon and walnuts.

has previously been lined with wax paper, a girl places two layers of prunes. These boxes are then wheeled to the boxing hopper in another room where they are filled from the hopper and the fruit pressed snugly into place. Another workman nails the bottom in place, for the bottom has now become the top, and when the box is opened, the "facers" are the first to appear. Twenty-five pounds net is packed in every box, and it is the business of the girl filler to see that this average is maintained and he has a pair of scales near him for that purpose. From the packing room the boxes are wheeled to the elevator on trucks and lowered to the first floor where they are stored to await shipment in cars. Very little fruit is held in storage, however, as it is usually shipped as rapidly as packed. Prunes are packed hot, a necessary proceeding in order to preserve them, and they are allowed to cool before being shipped.

A feature worthy of note in connection with the packing of prunes by the modern methods employed by the Armsby company, is that the only time the fruit touches the human hand while in the plant, is when the packing girls place the "facers" in the paper lined boxes. Everything about the plant is kept scrupulously clean, and the treatment of the fruit insures that it is thoroughly clean and in sanitary condition when placed in the boxes. Practically all

ter label probably was due to the fact that some of the prunes packed at the local plant will come from other counties; but "Dallas, Oregon," will appear on every box and package sent out by the local plant.

The present capacity of the plant is one carload daily but this can easily be doubled without great expense, and the building has been so constructed to permit this, if necessary. The plant, when running full capacity will employ about 60 people, 40 girls and women and 20 men. Each department will be in charge of an experienced hand, Oscar Victor, of Salem, said to be one of the most competent graders in the country, will have charge of this most important feature of the packing. Mr. Williams will have charge of the processor and C. Tracy will look after the receiving of the fruit and the loading and shipping of the finished product.

The plant was constructed by A. E. McIntire of Roseburg, who has built practically every packing plant on the North Pacific coast and furnished them with machinery. He owns most of the patents under which the prune packing machinery is constructed and much of the modern methods employed in the industry is due to his fertile brain.

A. C. Petersen, resident manager of the plant is a man who thoroughly understands his business. He has been connected with the work for a number of years and is familiar with all branches of the prune industry. He has spent much of his time during the past few weeks in visiting the different growers in the Willamette valley and has bought a large number of dried prunes which will be packed at the Dallas plant. He is an affable gentleman, accommodating and ready to extend the visitor every courtesy. Inspection of the plant is welcomed.

Lying beneath his overturned machine, the lifeless body of Jesse McCorkle, a Salem hop buyer, was found on the Salem-Dallas road near Eola, late Tuesday night, by an auto party returning from Dallas to Salem. At the time the accident happened, McCorkle was driving from Salem to Independence having left the former city about 11 o'clock. No one was with the man at the time and the cause of the accident will probably remain a mystery. The overturned machine lay in the mud and water just off the grade at the point on the road where the water trough is located. Here the grade is about five feet high.

Salem Authorities Notified.
The first knowledge of the accident was gained when Roy Hickson and Roy King, two Salem boys who were returning from Dallas in an automobile, accompanied by two girl companions, reached the spot. The lights from their car, as it swept around the curve near the trough, disclosed the top of the wheels of the overturned car near the roadside. The boys stopped their car and a hasty investigation showed them the body of a man beneath the wrecked car. One of the girls fainted at the sight and the company hurried to Salem, where the authorities were notified.

Coroner Chapman, of Polk county, was called by phone and gave permission for the removal of the remains to Salem, where they were taken in charge of by Coroner Clough, of Marion county, but no inquest was held, owing to the very evident circumstances surrounding the death.

While no one witnessed the accident, so far as known, many theories have been advanced as to its probable cause. One that finds general credence is that McCorkle turned out of the road to avoid the mudhole.

(Continued on Page Four)

PERMANENT FAIR ASSOCIATION IS PLAN

MEETING OF STOCKMEN, FARMERS AND CITIZENS GENERALLY CALLED BY DALLAS COMMERCIAL CLUB.

INTEREST ALL SECTIONS

General Co-operation in Scheme Is Urged; Would Make Polk Fair Typical of County; Uniting of Interest of All Fairs in One Association Is Proposed.

Matters in connection with the permanent organization of a Polk County Fair association were discussed at the regular meeting of the Dallas Commercial club Wednesday night, and it was decided to call a meeting of all interested at the county court room in the court house, this morning at 10:30. All stockmen, farmers and citizens generally, are cordially invited to attend the meeting and take an active part in the organization of this institution. It is the desire of the Commercial club to have all portions of the county represented to the end that the annual exhibit shall be successful and typical of the entire county and its diversified industries.

Amalgamation Proposed.
Proposing a combined association of the county and district fairs of Western Oregon, in order to secure better arrangements regarding dates, that there may be no future conflict, a communication was read from A. G. Price, president of Linn County Fair association, urging the promoters of the Polk County Fair association to co-operate in the plan. The advisability of such proceeding was at once apparent, and the secretary was instructed to write Mr. Price urging his attendance at the organization meeting of the fair association, when the matter will be discussed more fully.

Bills Allowed.
On motion the following bills were allowed and warrants ordered drawn for the various amounts: Observer Printing Co., printing and subscriptions, \$30.75; McCann & Collins, posting road signs, 4.00; Hemmer, printing and subscriptions, 25.10; Tracy Staats, collections, 11.25; M. V. Woods, janitor 3 mo., 3.00; Walter L. Toose, salary and expenses, 46.48.

Financial Secretary Track Staats submitted his monthly statement, as follows: Cash on hand Sept. 1, \$1060.90; collected during month, 25.00; warrants drawn, 161.90; bal. on hand Oct. 1, 1124.00.

25 FIRST VOTERS JOIN CLUB

Organization of a "Taft First Voters' Club," was effected at an enthusiastic meeting held in the court house in Dallas on Tuesday night. Twenty-five young Republicans were present, and much interest was manifested in the meeting and its objects. Officers were elected as follows:

President, G. W. Morton; Vice-president, W. B. Hallantyne; Secretary, H. Williams; treasurer, R. W. Finath.

Executive committee: August P. Rissner, Lou Ballantyne, Clifford Smith, F. E. Collins, Jack Hayes. The purpose of the club is to organize those who will cast their first presidential vote this fall into a club to promote the success of the national Republican ticket and the re-election of President William H. Taft. Clubs of the same kind are being organized in every section of the state, and the movement, which started several weeks ago, has found instant favor everywhere. Already several new members have signified their intention of joining and it is confidently expected that the club will number at least 50 before the campaign closes.

DIES AS RESULT OF ACCIDENT
Martin Elliott, a former resident of this county who was injured in an auto accident in Portland on September 22, died in a hospital there on Wednesday. His remains were shipped to this city last night and funeral services will be held from Chapman's mortuary parlors at 11 o'clock today. Interment will take place in the Dallas cemetery.

Mistake Corrected.
In Fidler's advertisement, as printed in Tuesday's Observer, appeared a typographical error which did Mr. Fidler an injustice. In advertising the famous "Red Brand Candies," the types made us quote the candy at "ten cents per pound," when it should have read "ten cents the one-half pound." The corrected advertisement may be found on the last page of today's paper.